would prevent the middle class from acquiring land in competition with the capitalists. The retention of the old rule giving preference to first applicants would be advantageous. The value of unreserved trees should not be included under *thadivila*. Lands with unreserved trees which were useful only for fuel and not for building purposes were found only in the eastern portions of the central taluks and in the eastern taluks, where, owing to the distance from the markets, the difficulties of transport and the abundance of local supply, the fuel did not fetch a price except in cases where there were Railway stations or navigable rivers close by. The Tahsildar should be authorised to check the valuation of tree growth made by the surveyor. In Rule 15 (iv), the auction purchaser should be allowed at least 15 days of grace to deposit the money, and the Division Peishkar should be competent to condone defaults for satisfactory reasons. To demand *tharavila* at the prevailing market rates for adjoining lands in the case of occupied land would be unfair and oppressive, as the lands had already been entered upon and improvements made *bona fide* in the belief that registry would be obtained under the Rules in force. The market value of similar lands within about two furlongs should be taken into account in fixing the *tharavila* on a plot of land. The amounts recited in the documents evidencing transactions relating to lands cannot always be relied upon as a correct guide. The market value might be ascertained by computing ten times the annual yield and deducting therefrom the cost of cultivation and the amount of tax, as laid down in the Court Fees Regulation. It might be that the entry and occupation by an enterprising man into a block of land had led to the opening up of the neighbourhood and the rise in the value of adjacent land. The market value should, therefore, be what the neighbouring lands would have fetched when the occupant first entered on the land. Rule 22 would be a weapon of oppression in the hands of the Tahsildars, and no land in *bona fide* occupation and with valuable improvements should be auctioned. The Rules relating to concessional grants to depressed classes would prove highly beneficial to them. The maximum *tharavila* chargeable on dry lands should be fixed at Rs. 50 per acre in the case of the lands referred to in Parts (i) and (ii) of Rule 39, and at Rs. 200 per acre in the case of the principal towns. The absence of a rule relating to the maximum *tharavila* was viewed with alarm by the public. The *tharavila* for wet lands should be reduced to Rs. 10 at least in the Devicolam Division. There were close to the Madura frontier extensive areas suitable for paddy cultivation which had not yet been taken up owing to their situation, inaccessibility, high cost of cultivation and risk of damage from wild animals. They should be registered without auction in the names of *bona fide* Travancore ryots. The prohibition against the registry of lands lying within two furlongs of all reserved forests would considerably reduce the area available for registry. The policy of the Government was not to add to the extent of the reserves which already covered about a third of the total area of the State. The Peishkar should be empowered to grant the registry of *all* lands outside the reserved forests Rule 47 was meaningless as the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja did not enjoy any appreciable benefit under the draft Rules. Having regard to the economic condition of the ryots, *tharavila* in cases involving more than Rs. 1,000 should be allowed to be paid in ten yearly instalments. In view of the local difficulties and cost of transport, the pakuthies of Kanjirapalli North and Kanjirapalli South should, in Schedule I, be included under Group IV, and the pakuthies of Peruvantanam and Peermade in Group V.

Dewan's reply.—The Member has made many constructive criticisms on the draft Rules which, I am sure, will be helpful to Government. They will receive very careful consideration.

10. Difficulties experienced by Pulayas in the matter of habitation.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) began by thanking the Government for the grant of lands to his community free of *tharavila*. The beneficent intentions of the Government were, however, being frustrated by the action of the subordinate officers. The lands comprised in Survey Nos. 3008 and 3020 in the Kalial pakuthi, Vilavankod taluk, were lying [illegible] and a thousand applications from the Pulayas of the taluk for their re[illegible] but overriding [illegible] to struggled. The [illegible] put in possession of the lands already been rejected and [illegible] taluk, though [illegible] be [illegible] they were entered in the Ne[illegible] the gr[illegible] and on the

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paid back assessment for three years. An extent of about 300 acres of land in the Rani pakuthi on which Pulayas had settled down and made improvements with a view to get them on registry had been assigned to an influential Christian Company. The occupants had been evicted by force and they had to flee for their lives. They had petitioned about the hardships they suffered, but they did not obtain redress. Government orders relating to concessional grants of land to Pulayas remained almost a dead letter. Lands in their occupation and enjoyment were being entered upon by others. He prayed that immediate redress might be granted to them in such cases. Lands for which *ozhugus* had been prepared in their names were assigned to strangers. The improvements usually effected by the Pulayas consisted of tapioca, plantains, &c., and permanent improvements could not be expected from them. Those should be considered sufficient to entitle them to registry.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the lands in the Vilavankod taluk referred to by the Member, they are being surveyed and split up into smaller blocks. The Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, will be asked to inquire into the local complaints mentioned by the Member. The expression 'valuable improvements' in the draft Puduval Rules will be defined when the Rules issue in their final form.

11. Difficulties experienced by the members of the Depressed Classes in the matter of puduval registry.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) conveyed the thanks of his community to His Highness' Government for the concessions allowed in the matter of puduval registry. But the beneficent intentions of Government had not been and were not being fulfilled adequately, as represented at previous sessions. Puduval applications from Pulayas made to the taluk officers were being treated as waste paper. He referred to specific instances of such cases in certain pakuthies of Kottarakara and Pattanamtitta. Pulayas who had occupied puduvals and made improvements thereon in the hope of getting them registered were being evicted. The unjust eviction of a Pulaya from Survey No. 360/1 in the Veliyam Pakuthi, Kottarakara taluk, was stopped only as a result of the Dewan's inspection. Lands for cattle grazing were not reserved in British India, and the grazing blocks reserved in the Kottarakara taluk were unsuitable and unused. The grazing block in Veliyam might be registered in their favour, as they intended to erect a Bhajanamatom there. Model colonies on the plan of the one proposed to be put up on Survey No. 2/1 in the Ala pakuthi, Chengannur taluk, should be erected for them in several parts of the State. The subordinate officers of the Government were indifferent and unsympathetic to them. High and rocky places unsuited for agriculture were often registered in their favour. Puduval lands at the disposal of the Government should be auctioned only after providing land for members of the depressed classes such as Pulayas, Parayas, Kuravas, Vedas and Ulladas. The Member welcomed the legislation to provide for the inalienability of lands granted to them on concessional terms, but thought that the restriction regarding alienation should cease after some time, *i. e.*, when they were able to realise the value of land and the advantages of owning it. He next referred to the fact that many Pulayas were engaged in making baskets, etc., out of *kaitha* leaves and that the P. W. D. subordinates objected to the cutting of *kaitha* leaves from road and other porambokes.

Dewan's reply.—Most of your complaints relate to the doings of subordinate officers. In regard to the local complaints, they have to be remedied by the local officers. Government have already issued general orders in the matter. Further, an Efficiency Audit Officer has been appointed and he will also, if approached, look into these defects. As regards the removal of *kaitha* leaves on poramboke lands, the P. W. D. will be addressed.

Mr. P. Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated) said that notwithstanding the concessions granted to them by G. O. No. [illegible] R. 2200, dated the 13th April 1917, L. [illegible] assignments of land effected in their [illegible] that they were the few owing to the apathy vour the subor[illegible] in his locality and the influ[illegible] disposal [illegible] influential men. Lands of the[illegible] granted [illegible] and improved upo[illegible]ers or were put up to

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